



<p>1. What is Florida Virtual High School?</p>	<p>The Florida Virtual High School (FVHS), originally known as the Florida On-line High School, is a public on-line school serving students in the state of Florida. The virtual high school provides curriculum and instructional services over the Internet at no charge to Florida students, whether they are home education students, hospital/homebound students, public school students, or private school students.</p>
<p>2. When did Florida Virtual High School get started?</p>	<p>The innovative web-based on-line high school was initiated in 1996, and officially launched in August 1997, by two school boards: Alachua and Orange Counties. During the 1997-1998 school year, they served students predominantly from the Orange and Alachua districts. Beginning in September of 1998, FVHS had affiliation agreements with 47 school districts. Currently, FVHS has affiliation agreements with all 67 school districts, and serves 2,800 students registered for 5200 courses. According to information furnished by FVHS, the school has a 70 percent course completion rate.</p>
<p>3. How are the courses and delivery system designed?</p>	<p>The Internet interface allows students to access course information and exchange asynchronous communications with their teacher and/or other students at any time of the day or night, from any place that the student can access the Internet. Other delivery devices that are used include phone, fax, stand-alone software, print-based material, websites, and real-world experts.</p> <p>The courses are based on the Sunshine State Standards. Students may take different routes through their courses and show mastery in a variety of ways, depending upon their learning styles and previous knowledge of the subject. When first designed, learners could progress through courses at any pace; however, this feature was modified since the school works in conjunction with districts on a traditional calendar and credit system. In order for districts to give graduation credits and plan for a student, a time certain finish date was needed. Students must now specify whether they will work at a traditional, accelerated, or extended pace.</p> <p>Teachers can keep the content "alive" and current. In other words, teachers have the option of inputting current events and new graphical representations on an as needed basis for their students.</p>

<p>4. How does a district participate?</p>	<p>Districts that wish to have their students participate in FVHS courses may enter into affiliation agreements, which provide that districts allow their students to enroll in FVHS course offerings and accept credit for successful completion of FVHS courses. Districts assign a district contact for correspondence between the district and FVHS, provide essential demographic data on students registered in FVHS courses, and recommend personnel to serve on FVHS Peer Review Committees.</p>
<p>5. How does the governance and funding work?</p>	<p>The state has historically supported FVHS through funding: \$200,000 in 1996 (through a Department of Education Break-the-Mold grant); and specific legislative appropriations since then: \$1.3 million in 1997; \$4.36 million in 1998; \$3.8 million in 1999; \$6.17 million in 2000; and \$6.17 million in 2001.</p> <p>The 2000 Legislature established a transitional governance structure with a board of trustees to govern FVHS. The board can adopt rules, policies, and procedures related to governance, personnel, budget and finance, administration, programs, curriculum and instruction, travel and purchasing, technology, students, contracts and grants, and property. They are authorized to enter into agreements with distance learning providers and may acquire, enjoy, use, and dispose of patents, copyrights, trademarks, licenses, rights and interests. Although the ownership of these remains with the state, the board has the full right of use and the right to retain any revenues derived from their use. Those funds must be used to support the school's research and development in order to improve courseware and services for students.</p>
<p>6. What is the future of Florida Virtual High School?</p>	<p>During the 2001-2002 school year, FVHS will offer 62 courses and only needs to develop a second half-credit physical education course to be able to offer a full high school curriculum. This course is scheduled to be offered in January, 2002. Projections for 2001-2002 are approximately 7,500 course registrations. Currently there are 52 classroom teachers. The maximum recommended teacher load is 130 course registrations per teacher for a fully developed course and 60 course registrations for a course still in development and being offered for the first time.</p> <p>In January of 2001, the board of trustees submitted to the Governor and Legislature a marketing and operational plan; recommendations regarding the unit cost of providing services to students; and recommendations regarding an accountability</p>

	<p>mechanism to assess effectiveness of the FVHS services.</p> <p>In March of 2001, the Education Governance Reorganization Task Force recommended to the Legislature the optimal mission of FVHS and a methodology for its operation and funding to achieve that mission. Changes made by Ch. 2001-89, LOF, include moving the administration of the school to the Commissioner of Education's Office of Technology and Information Services, and providing that the mission of the Florida Virtual High School is to give students "high quality technology based educational opportunities to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century." That mission also provides that the school must serve any student in the state who meets the profile for success in this educational delivery context with priority given to students needing expanded access to courses in order to meet their educational goals (such as home education students and students in inner-city and rural high schools who do not have access to higher-level courses), and students seeking accelerated access.</p> <p>Until 2003-2004, the Commissioner of Education is required to include the FVHS as a grant-in-aid appropriation in the department's legislative budget request. By fiscal year 2003-2004, the board has the responsibility for sustaining a self-sufficient delivery system through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). They must aggressively seek avenues to generate revenue to support FVHS's future endeavors. The board's established procedures for enrollment of students must fairly resolve the issue of double funding students taking courses online.</p>
<p>7. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 228.082, F.S. -- Florida Virtual High School  Section 229.006(4)(e), F.S. -- Education Governance Reorganization Task Force</p> <p>State Board of Education Rule 6A-1.099, F.A.C. -- Cooperative Projects and Activities</p>
<p>8. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>The Florida Virtual High School  445 West Amelia Street  Orlando, FL 32801  (407) 317-3326, Ext. 2742  <a href="http://fhs.net">http://fhs.net</a></p>

	The Florida House of Representatives Committee on General Education (850) 414-9780
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